



Cutting End of year 2025 cake by Bushenyi District LG and Bushenyi Ishaka Municipality on 22nd Dec. 2025

The Big Story

BUSHENYI CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PRAISED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE DELIVERY

PAGE 04

In this issue...

PAGE 06

UPDF COMMISSIONS KEY
CIVIL-MILITARY PROJECTS
AHEAD OF TAREHE SITA
CELEBRATIONS IN KABALE

08

2026 ELECTIONS: SOUTH
ANKOLE DIOCESEBISHOP
CALLS ON UGANDANS TO
UPHOLD CIVILITY

10

IBANDA BANKS ON
EQUATOR LINE TO
TRANSFORM TOURISM

Editor's Note

39th edition

A UNIFIED VOICE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this week's edition of Kigezi – Ankole Focus, where we bring you stories that capture the pulse of governance, development, peace, and community transformation across Southwestern Uganda.

This edition reflects a region actively investing in stability, service delivery, and inclusive growth, even as the country prepares for a critical electoral period.

We open in Kabale District, where the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) commissioned several civil-military infrastructure projects ahead of the upcoming Tarehe Sita celebrations. From classrooms and health facility staff houses to bridges, sanitation facilities, and safety equipment for lakeside communities, the projects underscore the UPDF's people-centred doctrine and its long-standing partnership with civilians in advancing local development.

As Uganda heads toward the 2026 general elections, voices of moral leadership take centre stage. In Ntungamo, the Bishop of South Ankole Diocese, Rt Rev Nathan Ahimbisibwe, called on Ugandans to uphold civility, forgiveness, and peace in both homes and politics. His message, echoed by political leaders, reinforces the importance of restraint, tolerance, and responsible leadership in safeguarding national unity during the election season.

Economic diversification and tourism development feature prominently from Ibanda District, where local leaders and partners are working to transform the Equator line along the Ibanda–Kamwenge Road into a vibrant hub for scientific, cultural, and community-based tourism. The initiative aims to boost local incomes, promote education tourism, and position Ibanda as a destination that blends natural heritage with community ownership.

In Bushenyi District and Bushenyi–Ishaka Municipality, civil



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servants and political leaders were praised for exemplary service delivery during a joint end-of-year celebration. National leaders commended the district's strong technical leadership, teamwork, and integrity, crediting them for consistent performance in education, implementation of government programmes, and effective coordination between political and technical wings.

Election preparedness and transparency were in focus in Ntungamo District, where the Returning Officer dismissed claims of security agencies' involvement in recruiting polling officials. He reaffirmed the Electoral Commission's procedures, appealed for peaceful conduct, and urged the media and political actors to play their roles responsibly ahead of the January 2026 polls.

From Rubanda District, this edition highlights tangible impacts of government investment in agriculture through the UGIFT Micro-Scale Irrigation Programme. Farmers report increased crop yields, improved dairy

production, and reduced labour costs—demonstrating how targeted interventions can transform livelihoods and accelerate the shift from subsistence to commercial agriculture.

Finally, in Kazo District, staff of the local government were urged to begin the new year with courage, discipline, and renewed commitment to public service. District leaders emphasized teamwork, integrity, and faith-driven service as essential pillars for improved service delivery.

Together, the stories in this edition paint a picture of a region focused on peace, productivity, and people-centred development. As Uganda moves deeper into an election year, these narratives remind us that strong institutions, moral leadership, and community participation remain the foundation of sustainable progress.

Byakatonda Alex
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BUSHENYI CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PRAISED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE DELIVERY

*By: Busiisi Jovanice Communication Officer
Bushenyi District Local Government*

Civil servants in Bushenyi District and Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality have been commended for their outstanding contribution to service delivery, with leaders citing strong technical leadership and teamwork as the backbone of their success.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Lt. Gen. Joseph Musanyufu, made the remarks while officiating as Chief Guest at a joint end-of-year celebration for 2025, organized by Bushenyi District Local Government and Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality at Uganda Technical Institute (Kahaya).

Lt. Gen. Musanyufu underscored the indispensable role of civil servants in government operations, noting that while politicians formulate policy, it is the technical workforce that translates policy into tangible results for citizens. He described civil servants as the “engine of service delivery” and urged them to maintain professionalism, integrity, and commitment.

He applauded Bushenyi District and Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality for ranking among the country's best-performing local governments, attributing their success to coordinated leadership at both political and technical levels.

The Chief Administrative Officer of Bushenyi District, Sanyu Phionah, credited the achievements to teamwork across all cadres of staff, from District headquarters to Lower



CAO Bushenyi Ms Sanyu Phionah addressing the guests at the end of year party, 2025

Local Governments.

She highlighted the role of Parish Chiefs, Agricultural extension workers, Community Development Officers, in the successful implementation of Parish Development Model, and all other cadres in their respective fields.

Sanyu further recognized the Heads of Departments for fostering collaboration and efficiency, and praised the partnership between Bushenyi District Local Government and the technical team of Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality in delivering services to the population.

She also commended the district's political leadership, the Resident District Commissioner's office, and security agencies for creating a stable environment that supports development. "All planned projects were implemented within the stipulated timelines, and we are focused on achieving even greater results in the coming quarters," she said.

Guest Speaker and Commissioner in the Ministry of Works and Transport, Winston Katushabe, emphasized that effective local government performance depends more on integrity, innovation, and commitment than on large budgets. He urged public servants to maximize available resources to meet community needs.

District Chairperson Jafari Basajabalaba praised Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality for emerging as the best-performing municipality in Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results for four consecutive years, describing the achievement as a reflection of disciplined leadership and investment in education.

The event attracted several dignitaries, including the Resident District Commissioner, Emmy Ngabirano; the Woman Member of Parliament for Bushenyi District, Annet Katusiime Mugisha; the Member of Parliament for Igara East, Hon. Michael Mawanda; the District Police Commander, and other senior government officials.



Joint end of year party 2025 for Bushenyi District LG and Bushenyi Ishaka Municipality held on 22nd Dec.2025

UPDF COMMISSIONS KEY CIVIL- MILITARY PROJECTS AHEAD OF TAREHE SITA CELEBRATIONS IN KABALE

By Byakatonda Alex, DCO- Kabale District

The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) has today commissioned several key civil-military projects constructed as part of activities to mark the forthcoming Tarehe Sita celebrations.

According to Lt Col Robert Kamuntu, the team leader organizing the Tarehe Sita celebrations to be hosted by Kabale District and the wider Kigezi region, the 45th anniversary will be celebrated with the public as a gesture of appreciation for the strategic support Ugandans have continuously extended to the UPDF.

Lt Col Kamuntu said the projects commissioned include a classroom block at Kanyankwanzi Primary School, a staff house at Rwene Health Centre III, Kahungye Bridge in Kahungye Sub-county, the Nyanja-Kambibi Bridge in Maziba Sub-county, VIP latrines at Nyanja in Maziba and Bugongi Market, as well as a staircase route up Makanga Hill leading to Kabale Regional Referral Hospital.

He added that the UPDF also donated life-saving jackets to communities around Lake Bunyonyi—especially learners—reflective

jackets to boda boda riders, and dustbins to Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, among other items.

Speaking at the official commissioning ceremony held at Kabale Regional Referral Hospital in Kabale Municipality, Maj Gen Henry Masiko, the Joint Staff Political Commissar, who represented the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, said the projects were constructed as a gesture to commemorate the UPDF's strong and strategic relationship with the civilian population.

Maj Gen Masiko noted that community service is a core pillar of the UPDF doctrine, emphasizing that the force is fundamentally a people-centred institution committed to civil-military cooperation.

Representing the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Jacob Oboth Oboth, the State Minister for Industry, David Bahati, congratulated the UPDF for being quick, efficient, and cost-effective in executing government projects compared to private contractors.

Bahati commended the force for completing the projects on time, saying they will significantly improve service delivery and the livelihoods of residents in Kabale District.

Kabale Resident District Commissioner, Maj. Godfrey Katamba, thanked the government and the UPDF for choosing Kabale District and the Kigezi region to host this year's Tarehe Sita celebrations.

He noted that the district has greatly benefited from the preparatory activities, which will enhance access to essential services.

Tarehe Sita is commemorated annually on February 6 and marks the birth of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces. The day celebrates the values of sacrifice, discipline, patriotism, and resilience that laid the foundation for the peace Uganda enjoys today.

It also commemorates the historic February 6, 1981 attack on Kabamba Barracks by the

National Resistance Army (then AFRONASA),
which ignited Uganda's liberation struggle.





2026 ELECTIONS: SOUTH ANKOLE DIOCESE BISHOP CALLS ON UGANDANS TO UPHOLD CIVILITY

By Anthony Kushaba DCO- Ntungamo

NTUNGAMO—The Bishop of South Ankole Diocese, Rt Rev Nathan Ahimbisibwe, has called on Ugandans to uphold civility, forgiveness and decency in their homes and in politics as the country heads into the 2026 general elections.

In his New Year message delivered from his residence at St Mathew Cathedral Kyamate, Bishop Ahimbisibwe urged leaders and citizens alike to embrace peace and honor during the election season, warning that intolerance and hostility could undermine national unity and development.

"The coming election period must be characterized by peacefulness and honor," Bishop Ahimbisibwe said, emphasizing that genuine love, forgiveness and respect for one another are essential foundations for sustainable development. He added that progress requires hard work and sacrifice, guided by values that promote the common good.

Reflecting on the challenges faced in 2025, the Bishop noted that the experiences of the past year should help shape priorities for the new year, particularly the need for a peaceful and credible electoral process. He encouraged Ugandans to learn from recent difficulties and commit themselves to constructive engagement rather than confrontation.

Bishop Ahimbisibwe also called on families to be anchors of peace, saying civility must begin at home before it can be reflected in national politics. He urged political actors to conduct campaigns responsibly, avoid inflammatory language and respect differing opinions.

His message was echoed by several political leaders who also appealed for calm and restraint ahead of the polls. Rushenyi County Member of Parliament, Naome Kabasharira, said the 2026 elections would be a defining moment for the country.

"The 2026 elections will determine who we are as a nation and set the pace for future success," Kabasharira noted, calling on voters and candidates to prioritize unity and peaceful participation in the democratic process.

Uganda is preparing for presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for January 2026, a period that traditionally draws heightened political activity across the country. Religious and political leaders have increasingly emphasized peace and civility as critical to ensuring stability and public confidence in the electoral process.

As the New Year begins, Bishop Ahimbisibwe's message adds to growing calls for tolerance, mutual respect and responsible leadership, with many hoping that the 2026 elections will be conducted in a spirit that strengthens democracy and national cohesion.



**Bishop Nathan
Ahimbisibwe**

IBANDA BANKS ON EQUATOR LINE TO TRANSFORM TOURISM

*By Lawrence Mucunguzi, Communication
Officer, Ibanda District*

For years, this has been little more than a roadside landmark for travelers on the Mbarara - Kamwenge Road. Now, Ibanda's leadership and a coalition of local partners are working to transform this geographic marvel into a dynamic hub for scientific, educational, and cultural tourism, aiming to boost local economic growth.

"This is more than a line on a map; it's a destination in the making," said Deo Tugume the Ibanda Municipality Principal Commercial officer. "We see it as a catalyst for community development."

A QUIETER, MORE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE

Located about 15 kilometers from Ibanda Town, the site is marked by the iconic circular monument familiar to Ugandans. However, proponents argue it offers a distinct advantage over the more popular Equator crossing in Kayabwe, Mpigi: authenticity and the potential for a deeper, less crowded experience.

The Equator initiative is not operating in isolation. Ibanda has recently gained recognition as a destination for academic tourism, boasting top-performing schools in national rankings. This emphasis on learning complements the scientific allure of the Equator site.

According to Mathias Rwabwete, the Ibanda

district tourism officer, the project is designed to act as a gateway to Ibanda's other attractions, including the source of the mighty River Rwizi, Nyamwezi Salt Lake, and serene spots like Blandina Gardens. The goal is to encourage visitors to stay longer and explore the district's rich agricultural heritage, including its famous Ankole cattle.

A COMMUNITY-CENTERED VISION

A broad coalition, dubbed the Equator Development Partners, is behind the push. It includes the Ibanda Community Organization Network (ICON), municipal and local government, faith-based groups like the Northwest Ankole Diocese, skills development centres, environmental organisations, media like Eiraka Radio, and Ibanda University.

The envisioned model includes training for local guides, cooperatives to manage crafts and food, and professional cultural troupes. This approach aims to ensure tourism revenue benefits the wider community and fosters local ownership of the site.

CHALLENGES ON THE PATH

The path forward has clear hurdles. The primary challenge is a lack of awareness and basic tourism infrastructure. Ibanda's Equator remains far less known than its Mpigi counterpart. Critical improvements are needed in signage, road access, and visitor facilities like clean restrooms and a proper information centre.

Despite these challenges, the district is moving forward with a clear vision: to create a sustainable tourism model where the Equator is not just a photo stop, but the heart of an immersive experience that celebrates science, culture, and community.

For the visitor, the invitation is open. Whether a nature enthusiast, a curious student, or a cultural explorer, Ibanda District is betting that

its Equator line will become a must-visit destination, offering a unique and uplifting journey at the centre of the world.



Members of Ibanda treckers club at Ibanda Equator Monument



Constructed Equator Monument along Ibanda- Kamwenge Road

NTUNGAMO RETURNING OFFICER DISMISSES CLAIMS OF SECURITY OFFICERS' ROLE IN RECRUITING POLLING OFFICIALS

By Anthony Kushaba

Ntungamo — The Ntungamo District Returning Officer, Charles Wafula, has dismissed allegations that District Internal Security Officers (DISOs) and Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISOs) are involved in the recruitment of polling officials ahead of the January 15, 2026 general elections, and has called on all stakeholders to promote peace throughout the electoral process.

Addressing journalists at the Electoral Commission offices in Ntungamo on Monday afternoon, Wafula clarified that the recruitment of polling officials is the sole mandate of the Office of the Returning Officer.

He stressed that applicants are required to submit their applications directly to his office and not to any other individuals.

"The information is very clear. Applications for polling officials should be submitted to the Office of the Returning Officer and not to

anyone else," Wafula said, dismissing claims that security officers were involved in the recruitment process.

His remarks followed allegations circulating in the district suggesting that DISOs and GISOs were taking part in recruiting polling officials, a matter that raised concerns among some political actors and members of the public.

Wafula, who recently assumed office, replaced Latif Ngonzi, under whose tenure nominations for all Ntungamo Members of Parliament aspirants were conducted. He has been in office for just over two days.

The returning officer also used the opportunity to call for peaceful conduct before, during and after the elections. He urged political actors, voters and the media to play their respective roles in ensuring a calm and credible electoral process.

"We are calling upon all stakeholders to maintain peace throughout the election period. Elections should not divide our people. Let us observe peace before voting, during polling and after the results are announced," Wafula said.

He further appealed to journalists to report objectively and responsibly throughout the electoral cycle, noting that professional reporting is key to promoting transparency, accountability and public confidence in the electoral process.

On the progress of recruiting polling officials, Wafula said interviews began on Saturday in Ntungamo Municipality and Ruhaama Main, before extending on Monday to Rushenyi, Kajara and Ruhaama East counties.

He revealed that the commission has already started marking and scrutinizing interview results from Ruhaama Main and Ntungamo Municipality to identify the most suitable candidates, with assessment of other counties to follow.

Regarding election preparedness, Wafula said the dispatch of electoral materials is ongoing and that Ntungamo District is ready to receive them.

He confirmed receipt of non-reusable transparent ballot boxes and other materials being delivered from the Electoral Commission headquarters.

Uganda will hold presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on January 15, 2026.



TRANSFORMS LIVELIHOODS IN RUBANDA DISTRICT

Kobugabe Joanita -Communication Officer

Rubanda District in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries has been implementing the World bank funded Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program(UgIFT) Micro Scale Irrigation program since FY 2022/2023.

The program is aimed at purchasing irrigation equipment for farmers at subsidized cost with the government contributing 75% of the cost of the system while the farmer contributes 25% of the cost of the system.

According to the Rubanda district Agricultural Engineer Ivan Mugisha, Out of 553 farmers that have shown interest in the project, 209 were successful; and 26 farmers have already installed the scheme at their farms.

Mugisha complimented that Rubanda has so far invested 591millions UGX in micro scale project targeting farmers who are planting high value crops like coffee, horticulture crops etc.

Mugisha added on to say that the district has a plan of establishing two farmer field schools to supplement on the existing to train farmers to transform from subsistence to Commercial Agriculture.

Mugisha also said that Rubanda has a challenge of lack of permanent reliable water sources for the project thus most farmers not getting the project.

The farm manager of Zagyenda Fredie's farm;Mudni Jimmy said that they purchased the scheme so as to increase on coffee yield of farm

Mudni registered a positive impact of the scheme saying that at first they were using Jerrycans for watering the coffee plantation which was tiresome and costly.

Mudni said that the total project costed 25million and the farmer contributed only 5million ugx.

While at Beatrice Dairy Farm in Bubaare Town council, the farm manager Martin Beyendeza appreciated the government of Uganda for the great initiative.

Beyendeza said that during the day season, the animals would have no drinking water at the farm, this registered an increase in milk production ever since the scheme was installed.

"Before we got the scheme milk production was between 450litres to 600litres per day, but it has increased from 750litres to 900litres," Beyendeza said.

The six complete projects were duly commissioned on 16th Dec 2025 by Mary Bebwajuba who had represented the district chairman.

Bebwajuba requested the farm managers to properly maintain the projects and ensure that they effectively serve the intended purpose.



The RDC Mr. Eric Sewandigi after commissioning micro scale Irrigation scheme at Musiime Jimmy's apple farm in bubaare town council



The farm manager at Mutebiles farm bufundi subcounty watering a potato garden



Coffee seeds at Zagyenda Fredie's farm located in bubaare subcounty, one of the beneficiaries of microscale Irrigation Scheme.

KAZO DISTRICT STAFF URGED TO SERVE WITH COURAGE IN THE NEW YEAR

Staff of Kazo District Local Government have been urged to begin the new year by serving the people with courage and commitment.

The call was made by Divine Kyogabirwe, the Principal Assistant Secretary (PAS), while

addressing the Senior Management Team of Kazo District on Monday. Kyogabirwe represented the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who was on official duty in Kampala.

She thanked the senior management team for their continued cooperation and commitment to service delivery. Kyogabirwe also expressed gratitude to God for the gift of life in the new year and encouraged staff to always work faithfully for God and the community. She emphasized this message by quoting Luke 9:25 from the Bible.

The meeting was chaired by the Principal Human Resource Officer, Muhumuza Ambrose, who welcomed staff back from the festive season. He urged district employees to work hard, uphold discipline, and cooperate with one another in order to improve service delivery to the people of Kazo District.

Ambrose further reminded staff that government jobs are valuable and should be respected, noting that many people aspire to such opportunities but never get the chance.

During the meeting, members of the Senior Management Team shared their plans for the year 2026 and set targets they aim to achieve before the end of the year.



UPDF COMMISSIONS NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PROJECTS AHEAD OF THE 45TH TAREHE SITA CELEBRATIONS

Kobugabe Joanita ,District Communications officer (DCO)

At a function that was held at volcano hotel on Tuesday 6th January 2026 and attended by high level dignitaries, Col Okei Rukogota , Director of the National Leadership Institute (NALI), explained that the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) had conducted numerous ideological orientation, patriotism, and mindset-changing workshops for youth leaders, students, religious leaders, and veterans across Kigezi ahead of next month's celebrations.

The UPDF also organized medical camps and tree planting activities, cleaning streets among others.

"All these efforts are tokens of appreciation for the support received from the civilian community and a symbolic commitment to continued collaboration as we execute our primary mandate: defending and protecting Uganda from security threats," he said.

Col. Rukogota further clarified that the mattresses distributed were a donation from the UPDF's Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO), Wazalendo. "This is not government or Ministry of Defense funding; it's soldiers touching their own pockets to share the little they have with civilians," he added.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, State Minister of Defense (Veteran Affairs), Huda Oleru Abason praised the UPDF for not only defending the nation, but also their contributions to the socio-economic transformation of the civilian community.

She urged the people of Rubanda and the wider Kigezi Sub-region to reject divisive practices such as sectarian politics based on religion and tribe, which threaten peace, political stability, and national unity—

achievements that the NRA/UPDF have fought for through sacrifice and bloodshed.

"Let's refrain from divisive language and practices rooted in sectarianism, as they undermine the foundations of the peace we enjoy today," she stated.

The Minister called on citizens to instead vote for leaders based on individual merit, considering their track records and ability to represent them effectively in decision-making processes and also not to betray revolutionism by desisting from voting according to religious denominations in the forthcoming election.

The minister said that celebrating Tarehe sita is a way of recognizing the lasting freedom as a key of national unity that has been achieved.

The UPDF's Joint Staff Policy and Strategy Major General Don Nabaasa, representing the Chief of Defense Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, said that the UPDF giving back to the Community was an acknowledgment and recognition that the army's mandate stems from the Ugandan people. He noted



that the NRA could not have succeeded in overthrowing dictatorial regimes without civilian backing.

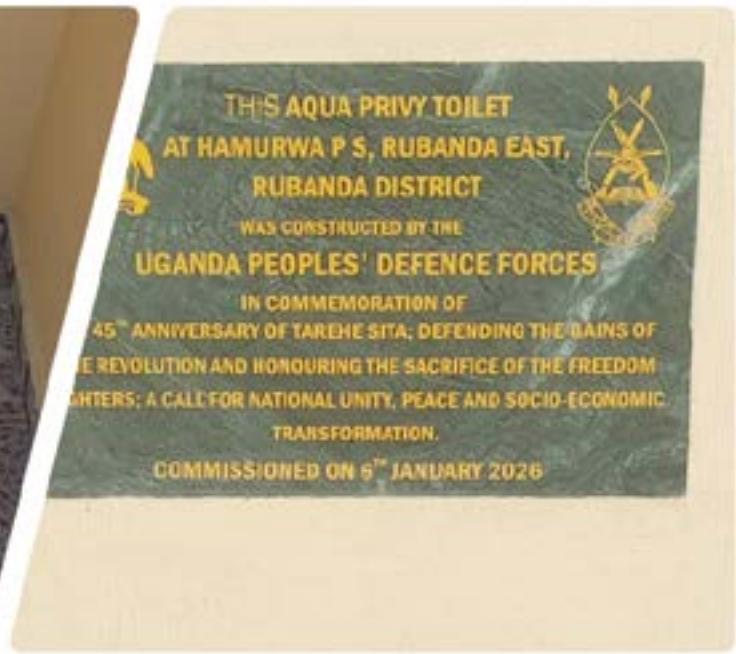
Maj. Gen. Nabaasa highlighted some notable figures from the Kigezi Sub-region who lost their lives in Uganda's liberation struggle, including the late FRONASA fighters James Karambuzi, Joseph Bitwari, and David Kangire, who were publicly executed by firing squad at Kabale Municipal Stadium on orders from former President Idi Amin Dada.

A newly constructed monument now stands in the stadium to honor their memory.

Rubanda District RDC Eric Ssewandigi appreciated the cooperation of the local community during the army's construction projects and other activities in preparation for the 45th Tarehe Sita Celebrations. He also pledged that Rubanda was prepared to vote for President Museveni with over 90% support in the upcoming election.



The guest of honor Minister Huda Oleru Abason handing over mattresses, delivery beds and other items to in charges of beneficiary facilities in Rubanda district.



Newly constructed 3stance VIP latrines at hamurwa primary school Rubanda district

GOVT LAUNCHES SHS28M WATER TANK PROJECT AT RWEMIHINGO SCHOOL

By Beyongyera Julius DCO -Sheema District

The Government has launched the construction of a 10,000-litre water harvesting tank at Rwemihingo Primary School in Kitagata Town Council, Sheema District, to address water shortages affecting pupils and teachers.

The Shs28 million project was commissioned by the Sheema Resident District Commissioner, Jane Asiimwe Muhindo, who said the facility will improve hygiene and learning conditions at the school.

"Access to clean water in schools is critical for health, sanitation and effective learning," Asiimwe said, calling on the school management to ensure proper use and maintenance of the facility.

She was accompanied by district political leaders and the technical team, who noted that the project will reduce time spent fetching water and support school attendance.

The water tank is part of Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in public schools across the Sheema district.



Sheema district RDC Ms Jane Asiimwe Muhindo (extreme right with a hoe) launching the construction of 10000litre water tank at Rwemihingo PS in Kitagata Town Council.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION OFFICERS TASKED TO DRIVE STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Maurice Kemigisha, Communications Officer, Rukungiri Municipality

Government Communication Officers have been urged to position strategic communication at the centre of Local Economic Development (LED) efforts, as government intensifies implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) and other wealth-creation programmes.

The call was made during a national meeting of Local Government Communication Officers held at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, which brought together communication professionals, local government officials, and Permanent Secretaries from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The meeting focused on strengthening the role of Communication Officers in explaining government policies, programmes and projects, addressing misinformation, and leveraging emerging media platforms to ensure citizens fully understand and benefit from government interventions, particularly at the grassroots.

Speaking at the engagement, the Personal Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government, Ben Kumumanya, emphasized that communication is fundamental to effective governance.

He described it as the backbone of public institutions, noting that accurate collection, storage and dissemination of information ensures government activities are visible, understood and appreciated across the country.

He challenged Communication Officers to be deliberate and professional in how they package and share information, stressing that poor communication can undermine even well-designed development programmes.

In a boost to government communication capacity, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Dr. Aminah Zawedde, handed over computers to Government Communication Officers to support their work. She described the officers as the “eyes and ears of government” and encouraged them to fully utilize the equipment to improve information flow, documentation and public engagement in support of Local Economic Development.

The Acting Commissioner for Local Economic Development, Emmanuel Muhanguzi, highlighted strategic communication as a key driver of development outcomes.

He noted that Communication Officers play a critical role in promoting transparency, accountability and citizen participation, which are essential for successful implementation of government programmes.

Muhanguzi emphasized that when communities clearly understand government interventions, they are more likely to participate meaningfully, monitor implementation, and translate opportunities into improved household incomes and livelihoods.

During the same meeting, the Deputy Director for the Parish Development Model, Bonny Kiconco, provided a detailed briefing on the PDM, describing it as a comprehensive framework for coordinating public and private sector interventions to stimulate wealth creation and employment at the parish level, the country's lowest economic planning unit.

Kiconco outlined the seven pillars of the PDM, including Agricultural Value Chain Development, Infrastructure and Economic Services, Financial Inclusion, Social Services, and Community Data. She urged Communication Officers to clearly communicate these pillars in simple and relatable terms to improve public understanding and uptake.

She further advised Communication Officers to respond promptly and accurately to public inquiries, work closely with PDM focal point persons, and guide communities to access complementary government programmes such as Emyooga and the Youth Livelihood Programme, instead of depending solely on PDM support.

The meeting concluded with a call for stronger coordination, innovation and professionalism in government communication, recognizing it as a critical pillar in advancing national development priorities and ensuring that government programmes deliver tangible benefits to citizens.



The PS Ministry of local government Mr Ben Kumumanya together with his counterpart from Ministry of ICT and National Guidance Dr Aminah Zawedde hands over Laptops to Government Communications officers.



Communication Officers from Western Region pose a photo with the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Local Government and other Counterparts

RESIDENTS OF KANUNGU DISTRICT URGED TO EXERCISE VOTING RIGHTS AS UPDF COMPLETES KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

T. Mwajuma Twaha Adams, District Communications Officer, Kanungu

The Minister for Trade and Industry, Gen. Wilson Mbassu Mbadi, encouraged Kanungu local residents to peacefully exercise their constitutional right to vote in the upcoming elections during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Kangarambe project in Kirima Subcounty. This initiative, executed under the Tarehe Sita framework, signifies a commitment to improving community facilities across the Kigezi sub-region.



The Minister for Trade and Industry, Gen. Wilson Mbassu Mbaddi reading health centers and a hospital to receive beds and mattresses, together with security head, ICT Minister and National Guidance Minister Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, RDC Kanungu Ambrose Mwesigye and his Assistants as the Minister presents names of health centres to benefit by r

The event, held at the Kangarambe Primary School playgrounds, on 06, January, 2026, marked the commissioning of several essential infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing community welfare, including:

- Two-Classroom Block at Kangarambe Primary School
- 5-Stance Latrine at Kishenyi Primary School
- Kihanda-Kambuga Bridge, improving connectivity between key trading areas
- Footpath Bridge in Mukishanda, connecting Kihhi Town Council to Nyakinoni and Katete Sub-Counties

Additionally, the UPDF handed over vital medical equipment to local health facilities, which included:

- One delivery bed and five mattresses to Rugyeyo Health Center IV
- One delivery bed and ten mattresses to Kambuga Hospital
- Five mattresses and five hospital beds to Kinyashwehera Muslim Health

Centre III

Reflecting a commitment to local transportation and community engagement, the UPDF also distributed reflector jackets to Kanungu Bodaboda operators and T-shirts labeled "Tarehe Sita" to residents present at the function.

Gen. Mbaddi urged residents to actively participate in the electoral process without fear, emphasizing the importance of maintaining calm and unity during this critical time. He reiterated the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government's role in ensuring peace and development, crediting the establishment of the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) for fostering national stability.

Brig. Gen. David Robert Gonyi, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, assured residents of adequate security during the elections, stating that the UPDF, alongside the Police, is fully prepared

to ensure law and order on polling day, scheduled for January 15, 2026.

In a show of support for the NRM, Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister for ICT and National Guidance, urged residents to embrace the party's vision, recognizing the government's efforts in restoring democratic rights. He pledged to continue leveraging technology to enhance transparency in the voting process, reinforcing the government's commitment to democratic values.

The ceremony attracted various dignitaries, including the Right Rev. Dan Zoreka, Bishop of Kinkizi Diocese, who offered prayers and blessings for the projects, along with senior military officials, RDC Kanungu Ambrose Mwesigye and his two Assistant's Emmy Magezi and Mugisha Zepher, civil servants, and members of the local community, all gathered to celebrate this milestone.



Ambrose Mwesigye RDC Kanungu confirming the quality of reflector jackets given out to bodaboda riders and Kanungu community members as he picks his





ICT Minister Dr. Chris Baryomunsi and Eng. Sam Kajojo District Chairperson Kanungu happily picking and checking the targets provided by UPDF cutesy of Tarehe sita



Community members receiving the TAREHE SITA T-shirts, RDC Ambrose Mwesigye holding them in the hands after wearing one with the front word 45th Tarehe Sita as he prepares the launch to distribute others to the beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT EMPOWERS LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS WITH LAPTOPS TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY

T. Mwajuma Twaha Adams, District Communications Officer, Kanungu District

In a significant move aimed at improving public engagement and service delivery, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Ben Kumumanya, addressed Local Government Communication Officers at a recent meeting, underscoring the importance of proactive communication in relaying government programs and initiatives.

Kumumanya emphasized that effective communication is essential for enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen awareness regarding policies and development initiatives at the local level.

To facilitate this, he presided over the distribution of laptops to the officers, an initiative fulfilling a prior pledge made at last year's communication officers' meeting. The laptops are expected to enhance efficiency, timeliness, and accuracy in disseminating information to the public.



District Communications Officers in attendance, in front table is Amina senior Communications Officer Mbarara city, Lillian Communications Mbarara District, Twongyeirwe Mwajuma Kanungu, Sheillah Rwamapara, Mark Senior Communications Isingiro

He urged the officers to use the equipment responsibly and creatively to foster public engagement and to enhance the government's image concerning service delivery. Kumumanya also called for a collective effort in sharing local government advertisements to attract potential job candidates, addressing the pressing issue of unemployment and unfilled positions.

Kumumanya promised to engage District accounting Officers to make sure that in this budgeting process iPhone are procured for District Communication Officers to ensure effective communication and strategic reporting of government projects, activities and programs.

In a related session, Dr. Aminah Zawedde, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, encouraged the communication officers to prioritize citizen engagement.

She highlighted the importance of using community platforms like WhatsApp to disseminate information about government plans, urging the officers to listen attentively to citizens' concerns. "Digital tools are no longer a luxury but a necessity," Zawedde noted, reinforcing the need for timely responses to citizen issues.



Government Communicators from Western Uganda with the PS Ministry of Local government Ben Kumumanya, PS Ministry of ICT Dr. Aminah, Major Turyatunga Edmond ED Communications ISO and other government commissioners



Permanent Secretary local Government Ben Kumumanya and other Government Commissioners fulfilling the promise made to Government Communicators

Addressing the importance of accurate narratives, Major Edmund Turyatunga, Director of Media at the Internal Security Organisation, urged the communication officers to counter misinformation and portray a positive image of local governments. He stressed the need for structured communication plans to facilitate timely public engagement and address misinformation swiftly.



Twongyeirwe Mwajuma Twaha Adams, Communications Officer Kanungu District submitted Challenges of Co's and applauding the ministry for the thought by providing laptops to Government Communicators and pledging effective communication

As the meeting concluded, Major Turyatunga reminded attendees that in the digital age, embracing tools like social media, particularly TikTok, could effectively reach communities in local languages, amplifying government programs and success stories.

In this digital era, the message was clear: "AI is here to stay," Turyatunga declared, affirming that while technology evolves, those who adapt will thrive.

This initiative marks a critical step in empowering local government communicators to enhance their outreach and effectiveness, ultimately leading to better service delivery and community engagement across Uganda.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

STATEMENT ON UNAUTHORISED VOTER LOCATION WEBSITE

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has taken regulatory action in response to the operation of an unauthorised online platform that was providing voter-related information without approval from the relevant authorities.

Following a formal request from the Electoral Commission, and in line with its statutory mandate under the Uganda Communications Act, the Commission directed licensed telecommunications operators and internet service providers to restrict access to the said website within Uganda. This action was taken to safeguard the integrity of public information systems, protect the orderly conduct of electoral processes, and prevent the dissemination of information that could potentially mislead members of the public.

The management of voter registration data, voter location information, and all electoral processes remains the exclusive constitutional responsibility of the Electoral Commission. Any platforms or applications purporting to provide such services must be duly authorised and aligned with the law.

UCC further reassures the public that this regulatory intervention was purely administrative and preventive in nature, undertaken to ensure compliance with existing legal and regulatory frameworks governing communications and information services in Uganda.

The Commission continues to work closely with relevant stakeholders to promote a secure, responsible, and trusted communications environment, especially during this important national event. Members of the public are encouraged to rely only on official channels designated by the Electoral Commission for voter-related information.

The Uganda Communications Commission remains committed to its role of enabling safe, reliable, and lawful communication services for all.



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